

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF MISSOURI**

In the Matter of Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire’s     ) **Case No. GT-2020-0316**  
Motion for Expedited Treatment of its             ) Tracking Nos. JG-2020-0178  
Low-Income Tariff Filing                             ) and JG-2020-0179

**STAFF RESPONSE TO SPIRE’S PROPOSED MODIFICATION TO ITS  
LOW-INCOME ENERGY AFFORDABILITY PROGRAM**

**COMES NOW** the Staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission, pursuant to the Commission’s April 8, 2020 *Order Directing Filing*, and for its response to Spire’s proposed modification to its low-income energy affordability program, states as follows:

1. On April 7, 2020 Spire Missouri Inc. d/b/a Spire filed a tariff letter and proposed tariff sheet (Tracking Numbers JG-2020-0178 and JG-2020-0179) requesting a variance from the Rules and Regulations of its Low-Income Energy Affordability Program<sup>1</sup> in order to provide financial assistance to customers impacted by the COVID-19 emergency. Attached to Spire’s letter is proposed P.S.C. MO. No 7 First Revised SHEET No. R-31.3 CANCELLING P.S.C. MO. No. 7 Original SHEET No. R-31.3, bearing an effective date of May 7, 2020 (Spire East), and P.S.C. MO. No 8 Original SHEET No. R-31.3, bearing an effective date of May 7, 2020 (Spire West). Spire requests expedited treatment of this tariff filing.

2. On April 8 the Commission ordered staff to respond by April 10.

3. Spire proposes to modify its Low-Income Energy Affordability Program to use unspent funds from the 2019-2020 period to assist eligible low-income customers. Spire states that approximately \$940,000 will be available to provide one-time credits of

---

<sup>1</sup> Tariff Sheets No. R-31 through R-31.3

up to \$100 to customers whose household income falls between 136% and 185% of the federal poverty level. Spire will work with the United Way to develop an eligibility process.

4. Spire's proposal will not change the Low-Income Affordability Program's overall budget or effect customers' rates.

5. Staff is of the opinion that the proposed tariff sheets may conflict with the provisions of the January 9, 2018 *Partial Stipulation and Agreement Regarding Low Income Energy Affordability Program* entered into by Spire, Staff, the Missouri Department of Economic Development – Division of Energy, and Consumer Council of Missouri. Paragraph 15 of the stipulation states that the Commission must decide any program redesign. Staff is unaware of any objection to Spire's request.

6. Staff recognizes that good cause exists to allow this change regarding the use of unspent funds due to the COVID-19 emergency. Therefore, Staff recommends that the Commission approve the proposed tariff sheets (Tracking Numbers YG-2020-0178 and YG-2020-0179) on an expedited basis.

**WHEREFORE**, for the reasons stated above, Staff recommends the Commission issue an order in this case that approves Spire's tariff sheets (Tracking Numbers YG-2020-0178 for Spire East and YG-2020-0179 for Spire West) on an expedited basis.

Respectfully submitted,

**/s/ Karen E. Bretz**

Karen E. Bretz

Senior Counsel

Missouri Bar No. 70632

Attorney for the Staff of the

Missouri Public Service Commission

P.O. Box 360

Jefferson City, MO 65102

573-751-5472 (Voice)

573-751-9285 (Fax)

[Karen.Bretz@psc.mo.gov](mailto:Karen.Bretz@psc.mo.gov)

**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I hereby certify that copies of the foregoing have been electronically mailed to all parties and/or counsel of record on this 10<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2020.

**/s/ Karen E. Bretz**